

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-10 and 15-18 were rejected. The Examiner objected to claims 11-14. By entry of this amendment, Claims 1 and 12 have been amended, claim 11 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 19-20 have been added. Consequently, claims 1-10 and 12-20 are now pending.

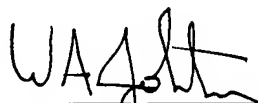
The undersigned notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 11-14 as filed would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 1 as filed has been amended to include the limitations of claim 11 as filed and new claim 19 has been added that includes the limitations of claims 1 and 13 as filed. As a result, independent claims 1 and 19 are allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,482,052 to Giljam in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,619,949 to Dick, Jr. and U.S. Patent No. 4,889,379 to Aso. In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-10 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,482,052 to Giljam in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,619,949 to Dick, Jr. and U.S. Patent No. 4,842,318 to Fussnegger et al. In view of the above discussion, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claims 1 and 19 is patentable. Further, the subject matter of the remaining dependent claims is patentable at least by virtue of direct or indirect dependence on claim 1 or claim 19. Therefore, it is believed that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WAG Johnston', written over a horizontal line.

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